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Letter dated 5 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour of writing to you in your capacity as the President of the Security Council for the month of September 2007 and would like to request your kind assistance in circulating as a document of the Council the attached statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning large-scale military exercises launched by the Abkhaz separatist government on the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its concern over the recent development of events in Abkhazia, Georgia. At a time when the Georgian authorities achieved stabilization of the situation in Upper Abkhazia, established law and order and are carrying out extensive works for the restoration of infrastructure in the region and measures aimed at upgrading the living conditions of the local population, the separatist government launched another in a series of large-scale military exercises.

Up to 6,000 armed men have been put on alert and a large amount of military equipment mobilized. Besides, separatist leaders continue to voice their aggressive intentions to "restore control over the upper part of the Kodori Gorge".

The separatist regimes' illegal armed formations get their supply of arms and military equipment from the Russian Federation, while the guidance over their training, exercises and logistical support is an immediate task of the officers of the Russian armed forces.

It is noteworthy that the above-mentioned exercises are held against the background of an unprecedented number of violations of Georgian airspace by Russian military aircraft and missile attacks of the Georgian territory, as well as regular military training conducted by the Russian armed forces in the North Caucasus.

The situation is highly alarming and may lead to destabilization not only in Georgia, but in the Caucasus region as a whole.

In connection with this fact, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Gela Bezhuashvili, addressed a letter to his colleagues, foreign ministers of the Secretary-General's Group of Friends, providing them with updated information and urging them to adopt an active position on the existing situation.

The Georgian side calls on the Russian Federation to cease its support of the separatist regime, including military assistance, and actions uncoordinated with the Georgian authorities in the conflict zones and undertake its functions as an unbiased mediator that will prevent a dangerous development of events.

Georgia considers that the Secretary-General's Group of Friends should adopt a more principal position while assessing the acts of the separatist regime and also demand that the Russian Federation, as a member of this Group, end its destructive acts against Georgia.

The Georgian side expresses its readiness to continue cooperation with all the parties concerned to achieve full-scale peaceful resolution of the conflicts, provided that Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity will be fully respected.

25 August 2007